

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DOTE-00 FEA-01

INT-05 OES-03 /105 W

----- 102654

R 300703Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 752

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELTN, ETRD, EALR, TU, IR, BU

SUBJECT: TURKISH ROAD TRANSIT FEES

REF: ANKARA 0327

1. FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ANDREY
LUKANOV INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR HERZ AT LUNCHEON
HELD RESIDENCE JANUARY 20 THAT BULGARIANS UNHAPPY
WITH RECENT HIKE IN TURKISH ROAD TRANSPORT FEES
(SEE REF). BULGARIA HAS LARGEST FLEET OF COUNTRIES
ALONG TIR ROUTE (SOME 3500 TRUCKS) AND, ACCORDING
LUKANOV, IN OWN SELF-INTERESTS CHARGE LOWEST
HIGHWAY FEES. HOWEVER LUKANOV DID NOT INDICATE BULGARIANS
WOULD OFFICIALLY REACT TO TURKISH PRICE HIKES.
TURKISH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR EROL ALTIPARMAK HAS
ALSO INFORMED EMBASSY THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE BULGARIA
IS TAKING NO ACTION.

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2. IRANIAN-BULGARIAN INTERNATIONAL

TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, WHICH ACCORDING IRANIAN SOURCES WILL BE CAPITALIZED AT \$20 MILLION WITH 60 PERCENT OF SHARES TO IRAN AND 40 PERCENT TO BULGARIA, IS ULTIMATELY EXPECTED TO GROW TOSWQPPXKTRUCCO. BULGARIAN INTEREST, WHICH WE SUSPECT IN PART IS TO MOVE GOODS ACROSS TURKEY AT DISCOUNT PRICES AFFORDED IRANIANS, MAY BE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED.

3. RE PARA 6 REFTTEL EMBASSY TRAVELLERS HAVE NOTED LONG LINES AT BULGARIAN-TURKISH BORDER WHICH ALTIPARMAK ATTRIBUTES TO CUSTOMS DELAYS ON BOTH SIDES PLUS RAPID INCREASE IN TRUCK TRANSPORT. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT GOT HAS RECENTLY OPENED NEW CUSTOMS FACILITIES AT BORDER FOR TRUCKS AND THAT SITUATION SHOULD IMPROVE.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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